

of the species at these stations consisted of the notation, "a casual" on one label. It was indicated, however, that the plant is probably not of a vigorously weedy nature and never became established in America—appearing to be distinctly a waif and not worthy of its general recognition in American manuals.

It is gratifying to be able to add a bit of definite evidence upon an occurrence of the species recently brought to light in the herbarium of Dr. H. B. Meredith. For many years Dr. Meredith was head of the State Hospital at Danville, Pennsylvania. His hobby has long been botany, and although probably enjoying most the collecting of the less familiar plants of more remote regions, he found a very fertile and fascinating field for observation and collection, during leisure moments, in the extensive lawns about the hospital. Here there appeared from time to time, after the seeding of the lawn, weeds of numerous kinds, some of more than usual interest. In this habitat *Ajuga genevensis*, for example, has become established. Most of the species noted, however, followed the more usual course of strange weeds in lawn-grass and failed to appear the second season, or at best lasted but a year or two.

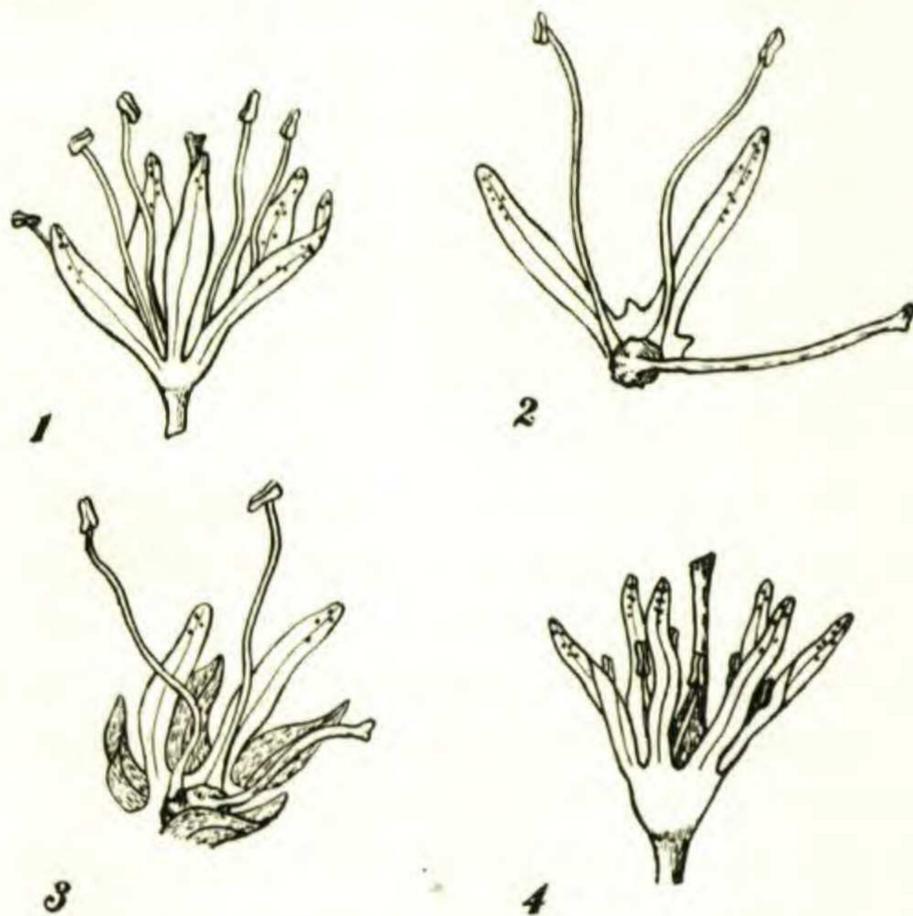
On learning of my interest in these weeds, Dr. Meredith sorted out from his collection a number of them for my examination, and under "*Sonchus arvensis*" we found a good specimen of *Crepis biennis*. The label data reads: "State Hospital lawn, Danville, Penna., June 6, 1889. Probably from imported grass-seed." Dr. Meredith distinctly recalls the plant and assures me that it did not appear on the lawn a second year.

Through the generosity of the collector the specimen has been deposited in the Herbarium of the Philadelphia Academy.—BAYARD LONG, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

THE SUPPOSED GENERIC CHARACTER OF NAUMBURGIA.—Some botanists maintain *Lysimachia thyrsiflora* as a genus *Naumburgia*, distinguishing it from *Lysimachia* by the small, tooth-like staminodia in the sinuses of the corolla. On one of the specimens of *Lysimachia thyrsiflora* in the Gray Herbarium, however, is a note by the collector—"teeth in sinuses of corolla abortive."

At the suggestion of Professor M. L. Fernald, a number of dissections were made from both American and foreign material. It was found that the American specimens were consistently characterized

by an absence of the staminodia. These were often wanting in the Eurasian, also, being the exception rather than the rule. The accompanying sketches illustrate these results. Thus *Naumburgia* Moench, as a genus distinct from *Lysimachia*, falls to the ground. The plant with teeth is probably a variation.



Lysimachia thyrsoflora, $\times 2\frac{2}{3}$: 1, from Japan; 2, from Sweden; 3, from Nova Scotia; 4, from Indiana.

Since specimens for examination were chosen all the way from Maine to Oregon in the United States, and from various locations in Switzerland, Bavaria, Saxony, Scandinavia, and Japan abroad, it is reasonably certain that the data were broad enough to justify this conclusion.

In the seventh edition of Gray's Manual the plant is described as having its corolla "very deeply 5 (or 6-7)-parted." As many as nine and as few as four divisions, however, have been found.—MARION E. ALLEN, Radcliffe College, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

DOES SAXIMONTANUS MEAN "ROCKY MOUNTAIN?"—In his article on "The American Varieties of *Pyrola chlorantha*" (RHODORA 22: 49-53), Prof. Fernald has revived the word "*saximontana*" to designate one of these varieties, evidently intending thereby to emphasize the fact that the new form occurs in the Rocky Mountain region. This word seems to have gained an undisputed place in botanical nomenclature, dating back to Haussknecht's *Epilobium saximontanum*